

increase on lands now occupied and the balance of Rs. 3,858, from lands now waste, that will be taken up for cultivation. Even if such waste lands are not taken up, the cost of the revision comes to but a little more than Rs. 2,000 over the increase of revenue for one year; this cannot be considered excessive. The increase in revenue is about 10 per cent. less in the tract under report than has been obtained elsewhere in the Dhárwár Collectorate, but Colonel Anderson gives good reason for this, and considering the total estimated increase on the revision of the whole collectorate, as shown in Colonel Anderson's 61 para., there is, I consider, every reason to be fully satisfied with the result of the work so far as it has now gone. From my own experience of the collectorate, and from conversation with the people, both official and non-official, I can fully endorse Colonel Anderson's statement that the revision rates have, up to this time, been accepted by the people without demur, and that they look upon them as just and reasonable.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

T. WADDINGTON,

First Assistant Collector.

No. 467 of 1878.

FROM

A. GREY, ESQUIRE,

COMMISSIONER, SOUTHERN DIVISION;

TO

THE HON'BLE E. W. RAVENSCROFT, C.S.I.,

CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

Revenue Department.

Belgaum, 7th March 1878.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward papers, as per margin, containing

1 Survey and Settlement Commissioner, Southern Division's No. 75, dated 21st January 1878, and accompaniments.

2 From the 1st Assistant Collector in charge Dhárwár, No. 605, dated 21st February 1878.

proposals for the revision of the assessment of one hundred and thirty villages, formerly comprised in the old Ránebennur Táluka of the Dhárwár Collectorate, which are now distributed as follows:—

94 villages in the present Ránebennur Táluka.

36 villages transferred to the Karajgi Táluka.

2. The system of re-measurement and classification, which has been adopted by the Survey Commissioner, has been fully described in former reports of other tálukas in the collectorate that have come under revision. Paragraphs 3 to 12 of the present report show, in detail, that these important operations are conducted in a complete and careful manner; and that every precaution is taken to avoid error and unequal assessment.

3. Paras. 15 to 17 contain a description of the features of the country, its climate and products. The rain-fall is not uniform in the tract under notice, it being more certain and favourable in the western part than in the east and north-east. The Ránebennur Táluka has, however, the advantage of receiving the rains of both monsoons, and the rain-fall, on an average of years, has been sufficient and timely in a large majority of the villages. The usual dry-crops—jowári, tur, wheat, oil-seeds and cotton, principally of the New Orleans variety, are the principal products, with some rice grown in the western villages. In a few villages, where large tanks exist, irrigated crops are raised.

4. The táluka has obtained its full share of the benefits that have been conferred on the whole district by the great improvement that has lately been effected in its communications, as a great impetus has been given to traffic by opening out roads in all directions, which enable the produce to find its way to the markets in the district as well as to those on the coast and in the interior.

5. The statement that usually accompanies the Survey Commissioner's reports shows the comparative statistics of thirty years ago and the present time :—

	Thirty years ago at the time of previous Settlement.	1877.	Increase.	Decrease.	Percentage Increase or Decrease.
Population	66,064	82,469	16,405	..	+24·83
Houses { Flat-roofed and tiled	9,160	14,784	5,624	..	+61·39
{ Thatched	3,704	2,710	..	994	-26·83
Agricultural cattle	18,042	20,110	2,068	..	+11·46
Cows, buffaloes and their young	37,342	26,635	..	10,707	-28·67
Sheep and goats	36,118	22,761	..	13,357	-36·98
Carts	899	3,114	2,215	..	+246·38
Horses and ponies	623	427	..	196	-31·46
Wells and budkis, or well-like erections on banks of streams	687	1,032	345	..	+50·21
Tanks { Irrigation	18	17	..	1	-5·55
{ Drinking	56	68	12	..	+21·42

As these statistics were prepared at an unfavourable time, when some of the inhabitants of the táluka had been dispersed by the famine, the rate of population shows a fair increase and the larger number of the better class of houses, which appear in the return, indicates an improvement in the circumstances of the agricultural community.

Population.

6. Statistics prepared by village officers regarding the amount of live-stock in a district are generally unreliable, and I attach little importance one way or another to the increase of agricultural cattle which appears in these returns. As there is a large extent of grazing still available in the táluka, the comparative number of animals is not larger than might be expected, and there is no assurance that their quality or breed has in any way improved.

Cattle.

7. The increase in the number of carts is the natural result of the great improvement in the communications, and shows that the produce of táluka is largely exported to the coast and to the marts in the interior of the country.

Carts.

8. It is much to be regretted that more accurate information has not been obtained of the number of persons residing in the villages comprised within the tract of country under notice, who are able to read. As there has lately been an addition to the number of schools where the attendance of boys is good, there can hardly have been a falling off in the number of educated persons during the last thirty years. The educational statistics must have been imperfectly prepared, or the decrease must be owing to the causes mentioned by Colonel Anderson in the concluding part of para. 27 of his report.

Education.

9. The returns (Appendices A and B) which accompany the Survey Commissioner's report show the high value that land has reached in the tract under notice, 81·37 per cent. of the Government occupied land is cultivated by the occupant himself or in partnership with other persons.

10. The usual difficulty has been experienced in forming an accurate comparison between the prices of produce in former and present years. For some of the past seasons no information is forthcoming, and the sources from which the Survey officers obtain the data, on which alone they can base their calculations, are at the best very unreliable.* The result of the Survey Commissioner's

Comparative prices of produce.

* *Note to para. 10 by the Survey Commissioner.*—The statements of prices prevalent in past years are obtained from the Mámlátdar through the Collector, and are supplemented where entries are imperfect or doubtful by information obtained by the classing officers from the táluka records or from local merchants' books.

investigations, however, shows a marked rise in prices during the last thirty years, and the increased value of New Orleans cotton must render this article of produce very remunerative to the grower and exporter. Colonel Anderson has very properly excluded from his calculations the exceptional prices of 1877, but as the effects of the year of drought still show themselves by a continuance in high prices, the holders of land may reasonably look forward to large profits for some time to come.

11. The past revenue history of the tract under revision (since 1837-38) is discussed in paras. 34 to 41 of the Survey Commissioner's report, and the following figured abstract shows the fluctuations in Government occupied and unoccupied land and in the collections and remissions :—

YEAR.				Government Occupied Land.	Government arable assessed Unoccupied, Land.	Collections on Government Land.	Remissions.	Outstanding Balance at the end of the year.
				Acres.	Acres.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1837-38 to 1846-47	..	..	..	62,825	142,371	78,914	8,238	4,179
1847-48 to 1856-57	..	..	..	96,179	86,338	80,756	2,142	5,219
1857-58 to 1866-67	..	..	..	149,680	38,117	1,11,851	....	....
1867-68 to 1876-77	..	..	..	157,603	31,279	1,15,604	1	476

The entire absence of any remissions and the large increase in the area of occupied land during the period between 1857-58 and 1875-76 prove the success of the last settlement. During the years immediately preceding the introduction of the survey in 1847-48, the taluka seems to have been in a very depressed condition and the collections of land revenue were gradually falling off. A reaction took place immediately after the survey rates were introduced and a steady increase in the occupied area and land revenue continued till the highest point was reached in 1864-65. There have since been some fluctuations in the cultivation and collections, but the net increase during the last thirty years fully proves how the tract under notice has advanced in wealth and prosperity.

12. The important question regarding the rates of assessment

which the Survey Commissioner proposes to impose on the villages under notice is discussed in paras. 43 to 53 of the report. At the settlement of 1847-48 the taluka was divided into two groups with different rates of assessment.

1st.—One bearing an assessment of Rs. 1-6-0.

2nd.—Bearing an assessment of Rs. 1-4-0.

Colonel Anderson divides the tract into four groups as follows :—

- (1.) 35 villages, which he considers to possess the best climate for dry-crop cultivation, for which he proposes a maximum dry-crop rate of Rs. 2-0-0.
- (2.) 24 villages, immediately to the south-west of the first group in a situation, where the rain-fall is less favourable for dry-crop maximum, assessment Rs. 1-12-0 per acre.
- (3.) 63 villages forming the mass of the east and north-east of the táluka where the distance from the main lines of traffic is greater and the rain-fall still more unfavourable; the maximum rate proposed is Rs. 1-10-0 per acre.
- (4.) For the remaining 8 villages a maximum rate of Rs. 1-6-0 is proposed.

For the rice lands the Survey Commissioner proposes one maximum rate of Rs. 8-0-0, of the same that has been already sanctioned for the old Bankápur Táluka. The large increase in the cultivation of this description of produce since the last settlement shows that with fair assessments the crops prove highly remunerative. The system adopted by Colonel Anderson, in assessing this description of lands, has been fully discussed in former reports, and has received the sanction of Government. The same procedure has been followed in the villages now under notice.

13. In his reports on the revision of the Hángal and Bankápur tálukas, Colonel Anderson explained, in detail, that the former rates on this description of cultivation were oppressively high, but that circumstances prevented Captain Wingate from reducing them to the lowest possible level. It is now proposed that a lower maximum rate should be imposed throughout, but it is anticipated that by the increase of garden area and by the rates being made more uniform there will still be a considerable increase of revenue under this head.

14. The following statement shows the total area and assessment of the villages under every head :—

Class.	Number of Villages in each.	Maximum Dry-crop Rate.	By FORMER SURVEY.		By REVISION SURVEY.						
			Government Occupied Land.		Government Occupied Land.		Government unoccupied assessed Waste.		Total.		Increase of Assessment per cent.
			Acres.	Assessment.	Acres.	Assessment.	Acres.	Assessment.	Acres.	Assessment.	
		Rs. a. p.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
1st	35	2 0 0	52,175	43,521	53,067	64,752	12,314	6,597	66,381	71,349	4,908
2nd	24	1 12 0	22,255	18,757	22,512	24,337	1,554	833	24,066	25,170	29.7
3rd	63	1 10 0	74,617	49,387	77,326	67,880	19,398	6,504	96,719	74,324	37.4
4th	8	1 6 0	6,746	3,370	7,152	4,208	168	02	7,820	4,300	24.9
Total ..	130	...	1,55,793	1,15,035	1,60,067	1,61,177	34,429	14,028	1,94,486	1,75,208	40.1

From this it will be observed—

1st.—That the average increase is 40.1 in the whole tract revised ;

2nd.—That the maximum percentage is 48.8 in 35 villages ;

3rd.—That the increase on the remaining groups is at 37.4 and under, and that the lowest increase amounts to 24.9 per cent.

*15. When the assessment of villages is examined in detail, it is satisfactory to find that there are only seven villages in which the assessment has been increased over 60 per cent. It appears that all these villages have a large proportion of very superior land which can well bear the additional rates imposed upon them.

16. The general result of the revised rates is an estimated increase of revenue from Rs. 1,15,035 to Rs. 1,61,177, a net increase of Rs. 46,142.

The average rate of assessment per acre will be Rs. 1-0-1 against the existing rate of Rs. 0-11-6, being an increase on the average of Rs. 0-4-7 per acre.

17. I believe that Government will have no difficulty in according their sanction to the revised rate now proposed by the Survey Commissioner. Considering the advance of the country in wealth and prosperity, the improvement in the communications, the increase in prices and the extension of cultivation, there is little doubt that higher rates of assessment might have been imposed without injustice to the agricultural community.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

A. GREY,
Commissioner, S. D.